

# THE ATHENS POST.

BY SAM. P. IVINS.

ATHENS, TENN., FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1850.

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## TERMS:

THE POST will be published every Friday at \$2 per year, payable within three months from the time of subscribing; \$2.50 in six months—or \$3 if payment is delayed until the expiration of the year.

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## THE POST.

ATHENS, FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1850.

### A SETTLER FROM HEAD-QUARTERS.

As a significant and conclusive commentary on the croakings of the Democratic papers over the assumed want of confidence on the part of the people in the Administration, we give the following from the great organ of that party, the *Washington Union*: "We have no doubt," says that paper, "the time is close at hand—and we warn our friends of it—when the democratic party will have to choose between total dissolution and defeat, and the reputation of certain individuals who have been prominent in support of its principles, usages, and candidates, but who are now its deadly enemies, clinging to its skirts, and holding on to its name, that their perilsous thrusts at its vitals may be more effectual and fatal. The time has nearly come when the true democratic press should speak boldly, and call both persons and actions by their proper names. Such, at the appropriate time, will be our course, regardless of the consequences."

Hithim again. What business has a dog to be happy? That's you—thump him and kick him and drive him away.

That boy has no father. What's the use of being kind to him? He has no friends and but little feeling—give him another shove.

This is the world in an acorn shell.

The "Journal of Commerce" predicts that any descent upon Cuba will be defeated. It says:

"These lawless attempts upon a neighboring country, with which we are at peace, are no better than piracy; and if every individual engaged in them should be shot, or hung up by the neck till he was dead, he would have no right to complain. We presume that such will be the fate of any who, with arms in their hands, may be taken prisoners by the Cubans. But we doubt very much if any will be so taken. We do not pretend to understand the details of the expedition, but it must be a small affair at best—a desperate movement, designed rather to save appearances than anything else. Its leaders must be very short of funds, and short of brains besides."

The New Orleans Picayune, in an article on the subject of coffee-houses and cafeterias in New Orleans, says the whole amount of licenses granted and recorded to sell liquor by the glass in that city is 482, but there are many licenses granted which are never recorded, according to the ordinances. The money received from this source alone into the different treasuries amounts to over \$100,000. The business of keeping these houses is, in spite of this large drawback, one of the most profitable carried on in the city.

Almost everybody fears God less than they do the Police Magistrate. Men blush not when they are caught in it. The bible is all very well, but, in our opinion, one constable has more terrors for a scamp than all the denunciations to be found in Leviticus. Churches keep good men from becoming worse—there are few things better than peacoup and solitude.

A man without enemies will soon be without friends. As long as John Tyler was abused, he had half the country on his side. At present, no one can tell where he lives.

There is a man living back in the woods, who being invited to a New Year's dinner, ate so much bear's meat that he went home and hugged his wife—a thing he had never been guilty of before—Curious, ain't it?

There is an old lady in the up town range, so nice about every thing, that she puts her pigs' tails up in brown paper to make them curl well.

The devil lies down in a miser's chest. The devil he does! We wish he would stay there. It would be turning the miser's chest, for once, to a good account.

Avoid tight boots as you would getting tight yourself.

Within the last few days information has been received by the Government rendering it most probable that a military organization has been set on foot within the United States, formidable both in numbers and from the character of those engaged in it, for the purpose of attacking the Island of Cuba and revolutionizing the Government.

We are informed that the President of the United States, immediately upon the receipt of the information, directed orders to be issued for the vessels of the Home Squadron, as also for the steamer Saranac and frigate Congress, to proceed forthwith to the Island of Cuba, with a view of ascertaining whether any military force, organized in the United States, was proceeding from thence to Cuba, for the purpose of invading that island and revolutionizing the Government; with express instructions in the event of such being the case, to prevent the landing of any such force or the carrying out of any such expedition or enterprise; and with further instructions, in the event of a landing having been effected, to prevent the landing of any reinforcements, or of any arms or provisions under the American flag, intended for such expedition or enterprise. In obedience to these orders, we understand that the steamer "Saranac" proceeded to sea on Saturday last, and will probably reach Cuba by Thursday next, where, it is expected, she will meet the "Germania," the "Albany," and the "Vigen."

It is confidently expected that the whole naval force will reach the Island of Cuba before any considerable number of those engaged in the enterprise can possibly have effected a landing, and thus prevent a violation of our obligations of amity and peace with Spain.—*Nat. Int.*

In a neutral paper recently established in the city of Petersburg, (Va.) we find the following pertinent observations by one of its correspondents:

"The public course of men belongs to the country, and may be freely canvassed, but when private reputation is assailed to destroy political influence, it sinks below the dignity of party, and partakes of all the littleness and baseness of the tap-room. In these times, when a party is to be destroyed, the means of effecting it are rarely considered. 'Finis coronat opus' becomes the motto, and private character is hunted down with a ferocity worthy only of wild beasts. In a country like ours, the struggle should be one of principle, and not as to who could sink the other lowest in public estimation. The question may be fairly asked whether the press does not owe to its own dignity the correction of so great and growing an evil? I am not the advocate of the present administration; but still I cannot shut my eyes on the unworthy attempts made to prejudice the gentlemen I have named, which, were they not known as most estimable in all the relations of private life, might succeed. Among the most prominent of these is the charge of something sinister against Mr. Crawford, in the settlement of the far-famed Galphin claim, and, through him, to reach the Attorney General, Secretary of the Treasury, and other members of the Cabinet as participants; say as though the amount of a claim was an argument against its being allowed. The first duty of Government officers is to do justice under all and every circumstance, and those who would refuse it, under a plea of its magnitude, would be unworthy of their stations."

AN AFFAIR.—Lady and gentleman entered Pittsburg Theatre Saturday evening last—selected a front seat—were attentive to each other—big whiskered husband came in shortly after—took a seat in the parquette—looked daggers at the lady, and thirty-two-pounder at the gentleman—husband suddenly left his seat—gallant hiss-bust met in the lobby—police officers parted them—gallant and faithless wife were ejected from the theatre—husband pursued them—gallant escaped—fair one lodged in the watch-house—above story occupied half a column of a Pittsburg paper—now it's something shorter.

What a pity doing wrong is so much pleasanter than doing right. One bad sheep will lead a whole flock astray in less than a week; and what is true of sheep is equally true of people. One vixen in a street will turn the whole neighborhood into scandal pedlars in less time than you could teach them the alphabet.

A friend writing from the gold mines, says he has slept for the last six months on a bed stuffed with broken bottles, with nothing but a cellar-door for a blanket.—He changes his shirt by turning two shingles. Mine Cot, what a country.

AMUSING—to see little short fellows—about as long as they are broad—paying respects to young ladies—chewing tobacco—smoking cigars, and wearing "kids."

The editor of the *Methuen Gazette* makes the following very sweeping assertion: "What a man, and never in love?" Pshaw! Such a man must have a heart of ice, a soul as lifeless as a corn cob, the gizzard of a goose, and a head as sappy as a cocoa nut."

## CLAIMS FOR LOST HORSES AND OTHER PROPERTY.

Claims of this character have accumulated to such an extent in the Third Auditor's office, at Washington, as to render some general reply necessary to satisfy applicants.

The regular business of the office is the settlement of accounts of disbursing officers of the Army, and claims arising under the several wars in which the country has been engaged, viz:

Accounts of Quartermasters;  
Accounts of Commissaries;  
Accounts of Engineers;  
Accounts of Pension Agents;  
Revolutionary Claims;  
Claims under the war of 1812;  
The several Indian wars, and the Mexican war;

Claims under special acts of Congress. On the first of November last, there were nearly 3000 accounts of disbursing officers on file, independent of the claims arising under the Mexican and other wars.

The Miscellaneous Claims, arising under acts and resolutions of Congress, have greatly accumulated since the act of the 21st of June, 1848. This act provides for refunding to States, corporations, and individuals, the expenses incurred in organizing, subsidizing, and transporting troops before being mustered into service, and has produced more than 1000 claims, and the list is increasing daily. Upon each of these, a special report has to be made to the Secretary of War.

Claims for the pay of teamsters employed during the war are also numerous.

But claims under the several acts for the payment of horses and other property lost in the military service of the United States, are the most numerous and pressing. Under these acts, there have arisen three thousand six hundred claimants—with claims for one, two, three, four, five, or more, distinct losses; and these, averaged at three each, would make nearly eleven thousand!

So that the whole number of claims and accounts in the Bureau cannot be short of fifteen thousand!

The last act on the subject of lost horses is more restricted in many respects than the former laws; and whilst the labor of examination is in no degree lessened in respect to claims, an award cannot be made upon one in twenty, either owing to the want of provision by law, or the defective nature of the testimony. The law provides, but for extraordinary cases, the volunteer being allowed forty cents a day for the ordinary use and risk of his horse, yet claims are set up for every species of loss, as well from disease as from the casualties of war.

To dispose of this immense accumulation of business, no addition had been made to the clerical force of the office since August, 1848, until the first of February last, when nine temporary clerks were assigned. There are now but forty-five clerks in the Bureau to dispose of five times the amount of business existing before the commencement of the Mexican war.

All accounts and claims properly come up for consideration in the order in which they are registered, and any departure from this rule creates confusion and dissatisfaction. It will, therefore, readily be perceived that claims of recent date, except in the cases of widows and orphans, cannot justly be allowed to take precedence of others of longer standing.

Most of the quartermasters' accounts are very heavy—embracing the whole period of the Mexican war. One of them alone involves money and property to the amount of more than twelve millions of dollars, and is connected with the account of almost every officer on duty in the Valley of Mexico.

Each claim for a lost horse requires an examination of the affidavit of the claimant and of the officer under whose command he served, and requires afterwards a comparison of facts with those embraced on the muster and pay rolls belonging to other bureaus, to see what remarks appear on these in reference to the alleged loss.

Each one of the fifteen thousand cases referred to has to undergo a close and critical examination by the clerks, upon voluminous vouchers—and to be revised by the head of the office.

What court in the Union has the adjudication of such an immense mass of cases? What court in the world could clear a docket of such extent in ten years?

The remedy is with Congress. When an act is passed which creates thousands of claims upon the Government, it is respectfully suggested that provision should be made for a sufficient clerical force to despatch the business in the shortest possible period. This is due to claimants and to the Government, as well as to the officers upon whom the labor of adjudication is thrown.

From the foregoing brief review, it will be seen that delay in the settlement of claims is unavoidable, and that it is physically impossible to do more than is already done by the laborious and energetic clerks of the Third Auditor's office.

It is the habit of the Auditor to answer letters on the subject of claims to as great an extent as possible; but to apply the whole force of the Bureau to letter writing alone, for the mere purpose of acknowledging the receipt of claims, would be a senseless waste of time, and only serve to retard settlements. Four clerks are now constantly employed in copying the correspondence which indispensably grows out of the ordinary despatch of business, and one in registering claims; and the force of the office is thus distributed:

One chief clerk, who directs the general business of the office, and gives information on subjects requiring research and investigation; one registering clerk; one requisition clerk; two book keepers; four copyists; nine on quartermasters' accounts; seven on the accounts of pension agents; four on miscellaneous claims; three on engineers' accounts; six on horse claims—in all 45.

The foregoing explanations are made for the information of claimants, and to relieve members of Congress and others from the

heavy correspondence which necessarily arises from the growing business of the country, and their connection with claims before this Bureau. It is adopted, too, as a respectful method of giving information to thousands of persons to whom it cannot be specially imparted.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.  
Third Auditor's office, April 16, 1850.

SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—We think of this adventurous mariner and his comrades only with the hope deferred that maketh the heart sick. But the editors of the *Providence Journal*, who are said to have watched such matters with more attention than any other paper in the country, are decidedly of opinion that Sir John is still alive. They suppose he is further to the west and north than the English navigators have imagined, and that he is rather to be sought for through Behring's Straits. It is supposed he might have entered the sea which is believed to be around the pole, and have progressed too far to the west to be reached through Baffin's Bay. Some navigators after passing over an immense icy barrier, have discovered an open sea beyond, through which Sir John may have passed.—*Washington Republic.*

"You have fairly got on the breeches," snarled an affectionate husband to his better half.

"Then, why, in the name of wonder, didn't you keep them on yourself?" asked she. "If you had been in the way of your duty I couldn't have taken possession of them. They certainly ought to be worn by one of us—and if you leave them empty, I take it for granted I'm expected to fill them." Wasn't she more than half right?

A letter from Ennis, Ireland, states that during the recent ravages of Cholera in that district, where the deaths in a few weeks amounted to one thousand two hundred and sixty, not one member of a temperance society fell a victim.

The New York Tribune says: "A well known manufacturer of a Patent Medicine, in this city, has lately disposed of his establishment and given up the business.—He received for the machinery \$28,000, and for the good will 100,000. The manner in which he has built up such a profitable concern was very simple—a liberal and judicious course of advertising."

REPORTED SUICIDE.—The failure of the house of Frank Ward & Co., of San Francisco, was among the items of intelligence by the arrivals on Tuesday. A letter received in Newark states that Ward, in consequence of his failure, placed a pistol to his head and blew his brains out!

A fire engine has just been introduced into one of the back towns of Wisconsin. The editor, in speaking of it, calls it a "four-wheeled spirit."

In the vicinity of the Mormon settlement, there are rats as big as Shetland ponies, and with tails so long that the people cut them off and use them for hoe handles.

Questions for the debating societies.—In sickness, which suffers the most—a short man or a long one? In other words, don't there more pang in six feet of pain than in five feet four?

OLD, BUT GOOD.—"Father, what does the printer live on?"

"Why do you ask, child?"

"Because you said you hadn't paid him for four years, and still take the paper."

"Wife, speak that child."

LAWYER'S TOAST.—Belonging, as he said, to the profession which had the reputation of being fond of fees, he offered the following lines:

Fee simple, and a simple fee,

And all the fees in tail.

Are nothing when compared to thee,

Thou best of fees—FEMALE.

The Hon. John Hubbard, Democrat, having a majority of 1,158 (vote over all other candidates for Governor of Connecticut, was accordingly declared the Governor elect, on Monday last, and inaugurated as such.—The vacancies in the Senate have all been filled by Democrats.

CURIOUS EFFECT OF FEAR.—The passion of fear, says the Earl of Shaftsbury, determines the muscles of the knees, which are instantly ready to perform their motion, by taking up the legs with incomparable celerity, in order to remove the body out of harm's way.

A LIEUTENANT CONFINED.—The German journals announce that a lieutenant of hussars has been safely delivered of a son. This mother in spurs is the famous Amazon, Marie Karl, who served in the army of the Hungarian insurrection, and who, since, has partaken of the captivity of her husband, a captain of artillery.

## HINTS FOR WISE FOLKS.

When you go to a party, go barefoot, and put your boots in your hat. You will thus save the polish, and not soil the carpet when you arrive.

When you wish to sneeze, have pluggers, and plug up your nose instantly. If you should split your head by the explosion, you will have proved your regard for good manners, and it is noble to die in the cause of virtue.

When you buy butter, give three loud cheers. You will attract a crowd, some of whom may be better judges of butter than yourself, and you can ask their opinion.

When you are asked to hold the baby, trot it hard, pinch it, and make faces at it when the mother is not looking. You will soon be relieved of the precious charge.

If you are poor and apt to squander your money do not earn any. A number of lazy people have tried this remedy with great effect.

When your stockings become holey, have them lined with sheet iron.—They will last till you are tired of 'em.

If you are troubled with any severe complaint, drink nothing but wormwood tea, and eat saw dust for six weeks. You will never complain again.

If you have rich victuals in the house, and wish them to last, give all the children an emetic.

If you have lost your pig, steal your neighbor's and hide it. He will make search and perhaps find your pig.

Always buy the commonest kind of goods. It is better to be cheated out of a little than a great deal.

If you wish to be happy after marriage, look as homely as you can before it. Wear old, faded clothes, and be generally disagreeable when you go to court your sweetheart. The contrast after marriage will be a perpetual delight.

If you wish to become as rich as Abbot Lawrence, go along and earn the money.

When you take a pew, have the cushion filled with tacks. They are hard to sit upon, but will keep you awake for wholesome instruction.

We copy the following paragraph from the *Gorham True Republican*, of Wednesday morning:

PICKED UP.—We are informed upon pretty reliable authority, that Mr. Timothy Coward, who resides at Godfrey's ferry on the Pee Dee, while engaged in fishing some few days since, heard the cry of a child, and on looking in the direction whence the noise came, he discovered an object floating rapidly down the current of the river. He immediately went in pursuit of the object, overtook and raised it into his canoe, when it proved to be a wooden box containing a live infant, apparently some three or four days old. The box seemed to have been made with great care, well finished and water proof, and was well lined inside with flannel; and the little *aquarian*—if we may so speak, very handsomely dressed in its "best bib and tucker."

Fortunately for the poor babe, and equally fortunate for the peace of mind of the diabolical wretch who placed the infant in so perilous a condition, it has fallen into the hands of a humane and generous man, who sets up a claim of *salvage* covering nothing short of the vessel and cargo entire. Mr. Coward would not exchange the little *Moses*—a name we take the liberty to suggest—for all other babies *afloat*.

It is astonishing how much more tenaciously people cling to error than to truth. It is a life labor to convert a Mohammedan or a Pagan to the truths of Christianity, yet who does not believe that if a disciple of the Prophet or Grand Lama should attempt to proselyte in our country, he would in a short time have a crowd of followers? The tenacity with which the heathen cling to their faith should teach Christians a lasting lesson.

IDLENESS.—No matter what may be the fortunes or the expectations of a young man, he has no right to live a life of idleness. In a world so full as this of incitements to exertion and of rewards for achievement, idleness is the most absurd of absurdities and the most shameful of shames. In such a world as ours the idle man is not so much a biped as a bivalve; and the wealth which breeds idleness, of which the English peerage is an example, and of which we are beginning to abound in specimens in this country, is only a sort of human oyster bed, where heirs and heiresses are planted, to spend a contemptible life of slothfulness in growing plump and succulent for the graveworm's banquet.

CURIOUS FACTS.—The Washington correspondent of the *Charleston News* says:

The second part of Mr. Ewbanks' Patent Office Report contains much valuable matter, procured by a laborious investigation. It appears that the consumption of Sugar in the world is estimated at nearly a million of tons annually. In 1844, Cuba alone furnished 200,000 tons.

From a record in the Post Office Department, it appears that the first stage between New York and Philadelphia commenced running in 1756, and occupied three days. Newspapers were carried by mail, free of charge, until 1758, when, by reason of their great increase, they were charged with postage of 2d. each year for 50 miles, and 18d. for 100 miles.

Professor Rodgers has commenced his Geological Lectures at the Smithsonian Institute. In the course of his remarks he states some very interesting facts relative to our great rivers. It appears that the Mississippi River drains an area of 300,000 square miles; and the total amount of water discharged per annum, in cubic feet, 8,092,118,910,000.

The amount of sedimentary matter in the Mississippi water is estimated at about one twelve hundredth part, by measure, of the whole volume discharged per annum; and since the alluvial deposits in the delta are estimated to have a mean depth of 50 feet, and to have been wholly deposited by the Mississippi and its tributaries, the least possible time upon these hypotheses required for the deposition of the delta, would be 13,648 years. The water discharged in the same time would fill a sea 850 miles square and one mile deep.

WHAT IS DIRT.—Old Dr. Cooper, of South Carolina, used to say to his students, "Don't be afraid of a little dirt, young gentlemen. What is dirt? Why nothing at all offensive, when chemically viewed. Rub a little alkali upon that dirty grease spot on your coat, and it undergoes a chemical change and becomes soap. Now rub it with a little water and it disappears, it is neither grease, soap, water nor dirt." "That is not a very odorous pile of dirt," you observe there. Well, scatter a little gypsum over it and it is no longer dirty. Everything you call dirt is worthy your notice as students of chemistry. Analyze it! Analyze it! It will all separate into very clean elements. "Dirt makes corn, corn makes bread and meat, and that makes a very sweet young lady that I saw one of you kissing last night. So after all you were kissing dirt—particularly if she whitens her skin with chalk or Fuller's earth.—There is no telling, young gentleman, what is dirt. Though I must say that rubbing such stuff upon the beautiful skin of a young lady is a dirty practice. "Pearl powder, I think is made of bismuth—nothing but dirt."

TO GET RID OF GRAIN WEEVILS.—Agriculturists who wish to get rid of weevils have nothing to do but, as soon as they are aware of their presence, to pitch the surface of some old boards and place them in his granaries; the pitch must of course be renewed several times in the course of a year, in order to keep the insects away. The mere fumes of the pitch is disagreeable to the weevils, and will prove fatal if long inhaled.—[*English paper.*]

HOW RICH HE WAS.—A gentleman from Salem, former master of a vessel, who recently returned from California, where he had been operating for about a couple of years, was accosted in front of our office on Saturday week. "Well, Captain H., I suppose you have made enough this trip to stay at home and lay off the rest of your days?" "Well, yes, I have made something." Pursuing his interrogations still farther—"Well, Captain, how much of the stuff did you bring home, anyhow?" "Well, sir, about as much as a good healthy jockass could haul down hill on the ice!"

One of our friends of the Assembly was so far overcome at the Masquerade, that the boys had to raise a cry of fire and carry him home on an engine. This is very wrong. As Harry Hammer sententiously remarks, a man in office should never be a man in liquor; but then as the same philosopher further remarks, if a man never gets drunk, how the devil will he know when he is sober? As the subject is getting rather intricate, we move that it be referred to the Standing Committee on pump handles.

Love, like the plague, is often communicated by clothing and money.